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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - BUSH ADMINISTRATION - SECOND TERM PROSPECTS AIRBUS VERSUS BOEING
PARIS - TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#)1. BUSH ADMINISTRATION - SECOND TERM PROSPECTS
- [1](#)2. AIRBUS VERSUS BOEING

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

ONE WORD, AIRBUS, SUMMARIZES TODAY'S FRONT PAGES AND EDITORIALS. AS THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM GETS READY TO UNVEIL THE A380, HEADLINES COMPETE FOR WORDS TO ILLUSTRATE THE GRANDEUR OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT. FOR LE FIGARO, IT IS A "FLYING AIRSHIP," WHILE LIBERATION TITLES "XXL" AND FRANCE SOIR "EVERYTHING ABOUT THE LARGEST AIRCRAFT IN THE WORLD." LE PARISIEN NOTES ABOUT THE A380 FEATURED ON ITS FRONT PAGE: "THIS, ALSO, IS EUROPE." COMMENTATORS FOR THE MOST PART HAIL THIS TECHNOLOGICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT, WHILE SOME, LIKE LIBERATION'S JEAN-MICHEL THENARD, CONTEND THAT "BIGGER IS NOT NECESSARILY BETTER." (SEE PART C)

THE SITUATION IN THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST LEADS COMMENTATOR BERNARD GUETTA IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY L'EXPRESS TO DEVOTE HIS COLUMN TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE "BUT NOT WITHOUT THE U.S. AND EUROPE." IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS COMMENTATOR JACQUES HUBERT-RODIER WRITES AN OP-ED ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S SECOND TERM, WHICH HE SEES AS LESS ISOLATIONIST AND MORE PRO-ATLANTICIST. (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

BUSH ADMINISTRATION - SECOND TERM PROSPECTS

"THE 'BUSH DOCTRINE' TESTED DURING SECOND TERM"
JACQUES HUBERT-RODIER IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (01/18):
"IRAQ, IRAN, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, THREE 'IS' THAT WILL DOMINATE PRESIDENT BUSH'S SECOND TERM. A SECOND TERM THAT IS BEGINNING UNDER VERY DIFFERENT AUSPICES FROM THE FIRST, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. FOUR YEARS LATER, AMERICA FINDS ITSELF MUCH MORE COMMITTED TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD. PRESIDENT BUSH'S SECOND TERM WILL BE COLORED BY FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS SOCIAL AND BUDGETARY CONSEQUENCES FOR THE U.S. . THE PRESENT CONTEXT IS OFFERING WHAT THE AMERICANS LIKE TO CALL 'WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY' IN THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST. EVEN IF IN IRAQ AND FOR THE TIME BEING, THE 135,000 SOLDIERS ARE HARD-PRESSED TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF SECURITY. STILL, THE ELECTIONS ARE CRUCIAL., OPENING AN ERA FOR THE RETURN OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY TO IRAQ. THAT MOMENT IS STILL FAR OFF INTO THE FUTURE BECAUSE THE IRAQI ARMY AND POLICE CANNOT AT THIS TIME TAKE OVER FROM THE AMERICANS AND THE ALLIES TO GUARANTEE THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY. PARADOXICALLY, IT IS IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINE CONFLICT THAT, DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING, THE U.S. CAN CARRY THE MOST WEIGHT. CALLS ARE COMING FROM EVERYWHERE FOR WASHINGTON TO TAKE OVER AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. DOES THE U.S. PRESIDENT WANT THE EXISTENCE OF A PALESTINIAN STATE 'COEXISTING IN PEACE' NEXT TO THE ISRAELI STATE? IT IS WITH IRAN THAT THE EXERCISE WILL BE THE HARDEST. WHAT TO DO WITH TEHERAN, WHICH IS OPENLY SUSPECTED BY WASHINGTON, AND MORE DISCREETLY BY THE EUROPEANS, OF WANTING TO DEVELOP THE ATOMIC BOMB? THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE 'SOFT APPROACH' OF THE EUROPEAN TROIKA AND THE HARD LINE PREFERRED BY MANY OF HIS ADVISORS. THESE THREE ISSUES WILL DETERMINE TO A LARGE EXTENT THE STATUS OF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS, WHICH SUFFERED FROM THE WAR IN IRAQ. THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE A RECONCILIATION WITH MANY OF HIS EUROPEAN ALLIES AND TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AMERICA IS NOT AT WAR WITH ISLAM. PRESIDENT BUSH IS COMING TO EUROPE, AND PROBABLY LATER PRESIDENT CHIRAC WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON: SIGNS OF A NEW ERA? AT ANY RATE THESE ARE SIGNS OF A MORE BENEVOLENT AMERICA TRYING TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT ITS GOALS ARE JUST. A DIFFICULT TASK."
"EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE POINTING TO PEACE, BUT."
BERNARD GUETTA IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY L'EXPRESS (01/18):
"PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD BE ACHIEVED IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THE CHANCES FOR THIS TO HAPPEN HAVE NEVER BEEN SO TANGIBLE. BUT WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. AND EUROPE, IF NEITHER GRASPS THE OPPORTUNITY, EVERYTHING COULD FALL APART. THE PALESTINIANS ARE FEELING IMPATIENT. THEY NEED TO

BELIEVE THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE. AND ONLY THE U.S. AND EUROPE CAN DO THIS. THEIR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IS GREAT. THEY MUST REAFFIRM THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE `ROADMAP.' CAUGHT IN THE IRAQI QUAGMIRE, THE U.S. HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BOUNCE BACK IN JERUSALEM. EVERYTHING POINTS TO PEACE, BUT NOT WITHOUT THE U.S. AND EUROPE."

AIRBUS VERSUS BOEING

"KING SIZE"

JEAN-MICHEL THENARD IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (01/18): "THE CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE A380 SEEM TO BE SAYING THAT BIG IS BEAUTIFUL. TO COMPETE WITH THE AMERICANS, OLD EUROPE IS LAUNCHING A KING SIZE AIRCRAFT. IF AIRBUS'S BET TURNS OUT TO BE A WINNING BET, WHICH IS NOT GUARANTEED, EUROPE'S AEROSPACE INDUSTRY WILL BE THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE LEADER. THROUGH THE AIRBUS-BOEING RACE, EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS ARE FIGHTING FOR THE LEAD IN WORLD TRADE. BUT AIRBUS STILL NEEDS TO WIN ITS WAGER. AT A TIME WHEN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY IS BESIEGED BY TERRORISM AND NATURAL DISASTERS."

"THE CHALLENGE"

GILLES SENGENS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LES ECHOS (01/18): "THE CHALLENGE OF THE A380 IS NO MORE AND NO LESS THAN AN ATTEMPT TO INSURE THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM IN THE SKIES, AND THE ACQUISITION OF LARGE PROFITS, EQUAL TO THOSE ACHIEVED BY BOEING WITH THE 747." LEACH